



**Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783**  
**Newsletter**  
**April 2020**



**REFLECTIONS FROM AMERICAN COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN**

**DUKE ELLINGTON**

“On becoming more acquainted with the word of the Bible,  
I began to understand so much more of what I had been taught,  
and of what I had learned about life and about the people in mine.”

“Gray skies are just clouds passing over.”

“A problem is a chance for you to do your best.”

*Brainy Quote*

<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/duke-ellington-quotes>

**FORTRESS MASADA**

Faithful Scribe Christopher R. Cooper

The name Masada conjures up memories of the ancient life and death struggle of Jewish rebels and the Roman Empire in the first century A.D. There was a mini-series made about this epic battle in 1981 A.D. called *Masada* starring the late actor Peter O'Toole. (IMDb, 2020) Most of what is known about Fortress Masada comes from the Jewish-Roman historian Josephus. (World Heritage Encyclopedia, 2020) Along with archeology and modern science some interesting questions can be answered about Fortress Masada.

What is the origin of the name “Masada”? It comes from the Hebrew word Metzuda (מצודה) which literally means fortress. (Isseroff, 2009) Masada may also be referred to as Metzada, Masadah, or Massada.

Who constructed Masada? It is uncertain who first fortified Masada. Historians agree it was under the Hasmonean dynasty. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2020) The fortification occurred either under Jonathan Maccabeus who ruled the area in 143-142 B.C. or under Alexander Jannaeus who ruled the area in 103-76 B.C. The next round of major fortifications occurred under King Herod the Great. (Isseroff, 2009) King Herod the Great is the infamous king in *The Holy Bible* who ordered all the male children under the age of two years old murdered when he felt a threat to his power. (Perowne, 1963) Herod was forced to take refuge at Masada in 40 B.C. (Isseroff, 2009) A Jewish uprising took place at this time. Herod chose Masada because it is an ideal military position. Masada is located on a high plateau, and it has an easily defended approach. For this reason Herod added numerous palaces, cisterns, and military buildings in case of future trouble with the Jewish people. The uprising was eventually quelled with the aid of the Roman military.

In the first century A.D. a Jewish separatist group known as the Zealots launched another rebellion against the Roman Empire. (Isseroff, 2009) A splinter group of the Zealots called the Sicarii managed to capture Masada in 66 A.D. Masada became the last Jewish military stronghold of the revolt. Under the reign of Roman Emperor Titus the Siege of Masada began in 73 A.D. (Bunting, 2020) The Roman X Legion under the command of General Lucius Silva constructed siege machines to conquer Fortress Masada. According to Josephus to avoid capture the defenders of Masada drew lots. (Isseroff, 2009) The individual chosen by lots killed all the inhabitants of Masada. Once his grim task was complete he committed suicide and ended the Jewish revolt.

In modern times archeologists have discovered many interesting artifacts at Fortress Masada. (Isseroff, 2009) They have uncovered evidence that supports Josephus' account of the Siege of Masada. The remains of an ancient Byzantine Christian Church have also been unearthed. Today Fortress Masada is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Israel.

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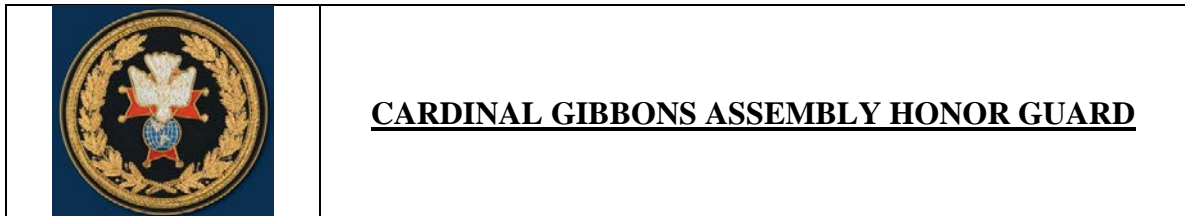
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### **4<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE UNIFORM**

The 4<sup>TH</sup> Degree uniform and accessories are available to order at the following link:

<https://kofcuniform.com/CustomPage/OrderNow>

### **UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENT(S):**

Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony 2020 CANCELED.

No Events Scheduled.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **April 2020**

April 15	Family of the Month Form Due
April 18	Ignited By Truth Catholic Conference 2020
April 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
April 30	100 <sup>th</sup> State Convention

#### **May 2020**

May 3	State Convention Virtual Convention – 9:00 AM
May 15	Family of the Month Form Due
May 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
May 29	Special Olympics

## **DATES TO REMEMBER (Continued)**

### **June 2020**

June 15	Family of the Month Form Due
June 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
June 30	Columbian Award Application (SP7) Due

### **July 2020**

July 1	Report of Council Officers Due
July 10-12	DD Organizational Meeting
July 15	Family of the Month Form Due
July 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

### **August 2020**

August 1	Service Program Personnel Report (#365) Due
August 15	Family of the Month Form Due
August 15	Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295) Due
August 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

## **DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS**

### **IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!**

**3/14/2020 – Governor Roy Cooper has issued an executive order banning mass gatherings of 100 people or more. Before attending any of the Degree Ceremonies listed below, please contact the host council to be sure that the event will still be held.**

Further details for upcoming degree ceremonies are available on the K of C State Council Website:

Degree Exemplifications: <https://kofcnc.org/>

Fourth Degree Exemplifications: <https://kofcnc.org/4th-degree/4th-degree-exemplification/>

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Start Time</u></b>	<b><u>Council – Location</u></b>
23 April 2020	7:00 PM	Council 8684, Greensboro, NC
28 April 2020	7:00 PM	Council 11911, Asheville, NC
7 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 13236, Greensboro, NC
12 May 2020	6:30 PM	Council 2829, Winston-Salem, NC
14 May 2020	7:30 PM	Council 10891, Asheboro, NC
14 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12654, Huntersville, NC
19 May 2020	6:30 PM	Council 12610, Mocksville, NC
20 May 2020	7:00 PM	Council 9249, Thomasville, NC
24 May 2020	1:00 PM	Council 9039, Shallotte, NC
3 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 14767, High Point, NC
8 June 2020	6:30 PM	Council 7259, Newton Grove, NC
9 June 2020	6:30 PM	Council 9499, Clemmons, NC
9 June 2020	7:30 PM	Council 3498, Graham, NC
11 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 11101, Greensboro, NC

### **DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS (Continued)**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Start Time</u></b>	<b><u>Council – Location</u></b>
13 June 2020	10:00 AM	Council 12537, Southport, NC
20 June 2020	9:00 AM	Council 6717, Gastonia, NC
20 June 2020	9:00 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
20 June 2020	10:30 AM	Council 6700, Gastonia, NC
23 June 2020	7:00 PM	Council 11911, Asheville, NC
8 July 2020	7:00 PM	Council 12481, Lexington, NC
18 August 2020	6:30 PM	Council 8509, Kernersville, NC

### **FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS**

There are no Fourth Degree Exemplifications scheduled at this time.

### **BLESSED FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER**

Faithful Scribe Christopher R. Cooper

When heroes of World War II are mentioned famous names such as General George S. Patton of the United States Army, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery of the British Army, or General Charles De Gaulle of the Free French come to mind. There were many not so famous heroes of WWII as well. One individual was a humble Austrian farmer, Blessed Franz Jägerstätter.

Bl. Franz Jägerstätter was born on 20 May 1907 in the city of St. Radegund of Upper Austria. (Vatican, 2020) He was born to working class parents Rosalia Huber and Franz Bachmeier. His parents were too poor to get married. Franz Bachmeier perished on the battleground of World War I. (CatholicSaints.Info, 2020) Bl. Franz Jägerstätter was ten years old at the time of his father's death. Rosalia Huber married a local farmer, Heinrich Jägerstätter, in 1917. (Copp, 2020) In that same year Heinrich Jägerstätter formally adopted Bl. Franz Jägerstätter. (CatholicSaints.Info, 2020)

At the age of 20 Bl. Franz Jägerstätter entered the workforce. (CatholicSaints.Info, 2020) He secured a position in the iron ore industry. During his early to mid-twenties he was somewhat of a rascal. He led a carefree life and at times he indulged in some questionable activities. (Vatican, 2020) Fortunately, in his late twenties Bl. Franz Jägerstätter began to mend his ways and settled down. He became a family man.

Bl. Franz Jägerstätter started to court his future wife, Franziska. (Vatican, 2020) They married in 1936. Franziska Jägerstätter was a positive influence on Bl. Franz Jägerstätter. With her guidance he became stronger in his Catholic Faith. He left the iron ore industry and took up farming. The loving couple went on to have three daughters. Bl. Franz Jägerstätter became very involved in his parish. In addition to farming he became a sexton. A sexton is "a church officer or employee who takes care of the property and performs related minor duties (as ringing the bell for services and digging graves)". (Merriam-Webster, 1993) It was a happy and peaceful time for Bl. Franz Jägerstätter and his family, but it would soon change for the worse.

Across Austria's northern frontier the NAZI movement had firmly taken control of Germany. Bl. Franz Jägerstätter had a troubling premonition in a dream:

"He saw a train going around a mountain, and adults and children could not hold themselves back from boarding. Then a voice spoke out, 'This train is going to hell.' He realized the train represented Nazi Germany." (Copp, 2020)

His dream was a warning of “Anschluss”. Anschluss was the forced annexation of Austria into NAZI Germany. (Von Schuschnigg, 1969) After the takeover of Austria by the NAZI government adult males were pressed into military service and Bl. Franz Jägerstätter was no exception. (Vatican, 2020) With the help of local government officials he was able to resist NAZI attempts to draft him into the army for active combat. He felt that service to the NAZI armed force was incompatible with his Catholic beliefs. One indication was the obedience to Adolf Hitler as stated in the NAZI military oath also referred to as “The Führer Oath” (Holocaust Encyclopedia, 2020):

*“I swear by God this holy oath, that I will render to Adolf Hitler, Führer of the German Reich and People, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, unconditional obedience, and that I am ready, as a brave soldier, to risk my life at any time for this oath.”*

In February 1943 Bl. Franz Jägerstätter was called up for military service for a final time. (Vatican, 2020) He refused and was immediately imprisoned.

Bl. Franz Jägerstätter was imprisoned at first in Linz, Austria and later he was transferred to Berlin, Germany to await trial. (CatholicSaints.Info, 2020) He and along with other “enemies of the state” were tortured in prison. (Greydanus, 2019) One such torture was making prisoner stand completely still. If they moved at all they would be severely beaten with truncheons. Bl. Franz Jägerstätter did not lose Faith. He still managed to muster energy to write to his family and bolster the Faith of his fellow inmates.

Bl. Franz Jägerstätter trial was on 6 July 1943. (Copp, 2020) The outcome was inevitable. He received a guilty verdict for “undermining the army”. The following month he was executed on 3 August 1943 by beheading.

The NAZI government tried to erase all knowledge and evidence of Bl. Franz Jägerstätter, but its attempts failed miserably. His widow, Franziska Jägerstätter, refused to let his memory die. She saved all of his letters. Franziska Jägerstätter’s diligence led to his biography being published and later a documentary made for television. Her hard work caught the attention of the Vatican. Bl. Franz Jägerstätter was venerated on 1 June 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI. (CatholicSaints.Info, 2020) He was also professed a martyr by Pope Benedict XVI on this same date. Pope Benedict XVI beatified Bl. Franz Jägerstätter on 26 October 2007.

Not all heroes of WWII are widely known unlike the great generals. Some of the heroes are humble peasant farmers like Bl. Franz Jägerstätter.

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### **IN MEMORIAM:**

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the soul of:

All Deceased Knights of Columbus.

All Members of the U.S Armed Forces.

All First Responders.

### **ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP**

Any Sir Knight who wants to submit an article to the Newsletter, turn the article into Faithful Scribe Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to [COOP5614@yahoo.com](mailto:COOP5614@yahoo.com).